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LAURÉ, MARTIN JOHN. *The Property Concepts of the Early Hebrews*. [Research Bulletin, Vol. IV, No. 2, of the series entitled "Studies in Sociology, Economics, Politics and History."] Iowa City: University of Iowa, 1915. 98 pages.

The writer sets himself the task of analyzing the property concept of the early Hebrews from the standpoint of its psychic genesis, that is, the *idea* of property. The development is traced down to the Deuteronomic code under the following chapter divisions: "The Divine Property Right," "Slavery," "Personal Property," "Real Property," and "Special Concepts." The final chapter deals with the theory of property in relation to the Hebrews and forms a proper introduction to the main discussion. The writer concludes that the idea of property in Israel, as elsewhere, originated in taboo, while the first object of property was woman taken in war. The writer takes as his basis the critical analysis of the sources; and it is refreshing to look at Israel's early traditions at times from some other than a religious standpoint. The results of this brochure which rest on the principles of economics and sociology are highly interesting, but the author's critical handling of the early Hebrew tradition is not always such as to inspire confidence in his conclusions which are made to rest upon that basis.

L. W.

DRIVER, S. R. *The Ideals of the Prophets*. New York: Scribner, 1915. xii+239 pages. 3s. 6d.

This consists of a selection of twenty sermons chosen as illustrative of the title, and also as representative of the late Dr. Driver's ordinary teaching and preaching in his capacity as Regius professor of Hebrew, and canon of Christ Church, Oxford, from 1882 to 1914. The collection is edited and provided with an appreciative preface by Dr. G. A. Cooke, Dr. Driver's successor at Oxford.

The value of the volume is still further enhanced by the addition of three appendixes arranged by Dr. Driver's son, Mr. Godfrey R. Driver. Appendix A comprises a complete bibliography of all of Dr. Driver's published works, arranged in chronological order, furnishing at once a ready means of reference and an illuminating perspective of the author's literary life-work. Appendix B enumerates the main events in Dr. Driver's career and Appendix C gives a list of the chief obituary notices.

If the reader looks for impassioned oratory in these sermons he will meet with disappointment. Dr. Driver made no pretense at oratorical skill or imaginative appeal. He was first of all the careful scholar and painstaking teacher, whose chief aim in pulpit or classroom when dealing with the prophets of Israel was to let them clearly speak their own message with all possible fulness and precision. It was in this way that he sought to counteract false notions of the nature and function of prophecy and at the same time to allow those teachings to commend themselves by their own intrinsic worth. In one important particular it was not possible to do this merely from the prophet's own words, viz., in the matter of the fulfilment of prophecy, and here the author is repeatedly at pains to emphasize the fact that the prophets never aimed nor professed to write history in advance, but when they drew their vivid pictures of coming doom or future glory it was primarily for the purpose of molding the life of their own times in accord with what ought to be as the seer saw the problem. In a very real sense, therefore, this volume is a biographical contribution to the life of a great prophetic interpreter of Scripture, and it has the merit, in that case not too often shared